THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL FREE DISPENSARY

OF CHICAGO

AT

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE

757 WEST HARRISON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1907

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Committee on Dispensary Work.

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The Dispensary is located in Senn Hall, Rush Medical College, 757 W. Harrison street, and is open daily, excepting Sundays and legal holidays, *for the gratuitous treatment of the sick poor, from* 8:30 *a. m. to* 4:30 *p. m.*

Destitute patients unable to attend the Dispensary will be visited *free of charge, at their homes.*

Call at the Dispensary *when it is open.* Telephone West 147.

All who desire to obtain a personal knowledge of the necessity of such an institution, its practical benefits to the sick poor, and its claims on the liberality of our citizens, are invited to visit the Dispensary.

MEDICAL STAFF

Department of Medicine—Hours, 8:30 to 10:30 A. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. Frank Billings, J. B. Herrick, B. W. Sippy, B. M. Linnell, J. L. Jacque, A. A. Small, R. T. Woodyatt, J. B. Diamond, W. E. Post, Leon Bloch, J. H. Otradovec, E. E. Irons, R. E. Keating, D. J. Davis, F. L. Strauss, Wm. L. Porterfield, M. I. Olson, Geo. Halperin.

Department of Pediatrics—Hours, 8:30 to 10:30 A. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. J. M. Dodson, A. C. Cotton, W. J. Butler, F. S. Churchill, J. W. Vanderslice, Josephine Young, Julia D. Merrill, A. C. Soper, I. J. Franklin, F. W. Allin, Bathena Coone, Grace H. Campbell, J. C. West, H. G. Vaughan, Maria B. Maver, H. M. Francis.

Department of Nervous System—Hours, 8:30 to 10:30 A. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. D. R. Brower, J. C. Gill, Thor Rothstein, Sidney Kuh, S. Krumholz, C. F. McClure.

Department of Surgery—Hours, 1:30 to 3.30.

Medical Staff: Drs. A. D. Bevan, J. B. Murphy, C. A. Parker, E. W. Ryerson, S. E. Donlon, C. J. Rowan, Kellogg Speed, C. B. Davis, V. Schrager, J. Golden, F. R. Morton, P. Oliver, D. B. Phemister, J. P. Grimes, H. L. Kretschmar, G. G. Davis.

Department of Surgery (Genito-Urinary Diseases)—Hours, 3:30 to 5:30 P. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. W. T. Belfield, J. A. Patton, R. H. Herbst, D. F. Grasse, Theo. Drozdowitz, H. J. Polkey.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.—Hours, 10:30 A. M. to 12:30 P.M.

Medical Staff: Drs. J. Clarence Webster, A. B. Keyes, F. W. Lynch, Carey Culbertson, I. Rasmusson, Sara A. Jansen, Mary Johnstone.

Department of Chest, Throat and Nose Diseases.—Hours, 1:30 to 3:30 P. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. E. Fletcher Ingals, J. E. Rhodes, O. T. Freer, G. A. Torrison, E. L. Kenyon, F. G. Stubbs, T. W. Lewis, S. A. Friedberg, John Ritter, R. Sonnenschein, A. H. Fowler, W. A. Plice, H. T. Barnes, A. N. Oyen, H. P. Bagley.

Department of Ophthalmology and Otology—Hours, 1:30 to 3:30 P. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. W. H. Wilder, G. E. Shambaugh, E. V. L. Brown, David Fiske, F. I. Brown, L. N. Grosvenor, John B. Ellis, F. A. Lane, G. W. Boot.

Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases—Hours, 1:30 to 3:30 P. M.

Medical Staff: Drs. James Nevins Hyde, F. H. Montgomery, O. S. Ormsby, E. L. McEwen, W. A. Quinn, W. J. M. Cunningham, E. W. Potthoff, A. N. Mackay.

To the Board of Directors of the Central Free Dispensary of West Chicago:

Gentlemen—During the past year, under the management of the Committee on Dispensary Work, the affairs of the Dispensary have been wisely and carefully administered. The report of the Committee will give you an account of the work done during the year, and with this and the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary, you will have full information regarding the details of the work.

During the past few years much interest has been shown throughout the world in treatment of that dread disease, tuberculosis, and in many of our states associations have been formed for the purpose of alleviating the distress of its unfortunate victims. In our own state there are associations of this kind, and we are to consider at this meeting a proposition for the Central Free Dispensary to unite with the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute in caring for the sufferers from this disease in our own district, the plan of the Institute being to secure the co-operation of four or five dispensaries in the city of Chicago. The interest taken in this matter is not confined to the medical fraternity, but a large number of those connected with associations like ours are lending their aid. After having had, during the past few months, opportunities to look into the care of tuberculosis patients, principally by what is known as the open air treatment, I am in hearty sympathy with the movement. And I recommend that the Central Free Dispensary join with the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, as suggested by Dr. Dodson, Dr. Billings and Dr. Ingalls.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Signed) H. S. BURKHARDT,
President.

Chicago, December 31st, 1908.

CENTRAL FREE DISPENSARY.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPENSARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1907.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board:

Your Committee on Dispensary Work is able to report a steady and substantial increase in the work of the Dispensary during the year 1907. The tabulated summary of the distributor shows the total attendance of patients for the year ending December 31st, 1907, to be 32,951, an increase of 12 per cent over that of 1906, and quite the largest in the history of the Dispensary. Especial care has been taken, as heretofore, to restrict the admission to the deserving poor, and 668 persons have been refused admission. It is seldom that anything is necessary beyond a simple explanation to the applicant that the Dispensary is only for those who are financially unable to pay a physician. A few impostors are encountered, however, and 122 cases have been referred to the Bureau of Charities, which continues its valuable service in the investigation of these doubtful applicants. Ninety-four of these were found undeserving of charity, and but 28 were found needy as they had claimed to be.

In this connection, your Committee would again call attention to the fact that a committee of the Chicago Medical Society on the abuse of medical charities has been investigating the dispensaries of Chicago, numbering more than fifty-five, and finds that in many of these institutions no means whatever are used to discriminate between the needy poor and the impostors. The committee has been continued this year and has inaugurated a movement which it is hoped will result in a correction of these abuses. A conference has been called of representatives from the dispensaries of the city to discuss the question and to seek a remedy. Your Committee would recommend that the President of this Board of Directors be authorized to appoint one or more members to represent the Central Free Dispensary at said conference, with power to act on any measures which may be proposed.

The percentage of increase in the several departments of the Dispensary during the year 1907, as contrasted with 1906, is as follows:

Department of Medicine	10%
Department of Nervous Diseases	2½%
Department of Pediatrics	14%
Department of Surgery	13%
Department of Genito-urinary Diseases	12%
Department of Gynecology	20%
Diseases of the Chest, Throat and Nose	11%
Diseases of the Eye and Ear	14%
Skin and Venereal Diseases	9%

The question of the drug formulary of the Dispensary has again been under discussion in the faculty of Rush Medical College, which recommends that a radical revision of the formulary be made, the revised formulary to conform to the U. S. Pharmacopoeia, and the so-called National Formulary, names of drugs and prepartions to be used instead of numbers in prescribing. Your Committee advise that this recommendation of the Rush faculty be concurred in and that the medical staff of the Dispensary be authorized to prepare and have printed such a revision of the formulary.

An addition of much significance has recently been made to the Dispensary, suggested by a plan which has been in operation for some time at the out-patient department of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston under the inspiring and effective leadership of Dr. Richard C. Cabot, who recently gave in Chicago an account of this work at a conference called by the Cook County Commissioners. For a long time Dr. Cabot and others had been impressed with the fact that the mere prescribing of medicine, and the other measures of treatment ordinarily carried out in the dispensaries, often failed of its purpose because of the impoverished circumstances of the poor patients whom they seek to cure. The bad hygienic surroundings of these patients, the poor and meagre food, inadequate clothing, and the ignorance of how to take care of themselves, constitute factors of vital importance in militating against the restoration to health and self-support of these patients. To remedy these evils is often, if not usually, a matter of greater moment than the prescription of drugs. To follow these patients to their homes, therefore, by the aid of the visiting nurses, sometimes of medical students, and occasionally by the visiting physician or other member of the Dispensary staff, and to secure, through them, the aid of other charitable organizations in relieving the distress and improving the conditions of the sick poor, is to greatly

enlarge and improve the effectiveness of the Dispensary. The co-operation of the Visiting Nurses' Association was sought by Dr. Churchill, of our staff, and was promptly and enthusiastically granted. Therefore, the plan of following to their homes such patients as seem most to need such help has been inaugurated—for the present in the children's department only. The idea involves only some expansion of the work which the visiting nurses have been doing through our Dispensary and elsewhere, but carried out with this somewhat broader conception of its possibilities, it is certain to result in greater good, and to enhance the usefulness of our institution. For the present, at least, this work will involve no expense to the Dispensary.

Conducted on the same lines is the work of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, which, as one branch of its service, has established six or more dispensary stations in the city, and presents a request to your Board for the establishment of such a station at the Central Free Dispensary. Mr. Wilson, the Superintendent of the Institute, has drawn up articles of agreement to be entered into by the Institute and the Dispensary, copy of which is herewith presented to the Board. This proposition is in line with a great movement which is going on all over the world—a movement which is perhaps more sociological than medical—and of the results of which great hopes are entertained by the medical profession. It has been even predicted that if the anti-tuberculosis campaign in Germany is carried on as effectively in the future as at present, tuberculosis, that great white plague, which causes the death of one-seventh of all who die in the world, can be wiped out of existence in that country by the middle of this century. The establishment of such a department in the Dispensary would enable us to be of service to a large class of the sick poor, much more efficiently than at present, and would make it possible to instruct the students of Rush Medical College in the methods of combating tuberculosis. Every student so instructed and interested in this work may become the organizer of a similar anti-tuberculosis movement in the community in which he locates for practice, and thus the beneficient effect of this department would be far-reaching indeed. The college has agreed to set aside two rooms for this work on the fourth floor of the clinical building, adjoining Senn Hall, and the necessary furniture and fittings will be supplied by the Institute, so that no expense will be incurred by the Dispensary. Your Committee recommends that this Board enter into affiliation with the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute for this purpose, and that the President be instructed to sign the articles of agreement for the Board.

The faculty of Rush Medical College, at a meeting on November 7th, received the report of its Committee on Clinical Records, which had been some time in preparation. This committee finds the existing method of filing the history cards in each department unsatisfactory, resulting in frequent misplacement of the cards and thus involving loss of time to both patient and physician. The substitution, five years ago, of card histories, with an accompanying alphabetical index of the names of patients, for the old book records has proven to be a great advance in the direction of more complete and accurate histories, and more consistent and scientific treatment of the patients. Our present method is defective, however, in the matter of filing. Handled, as these cards must be, by from ten to twenty separate attending men in each department, as well as by the nurses, consistent and orderly filing is quite impossible, and the maintenance of a diagnosis index, without which these records lose the major part of their value, is out of the question. This committee recommends that all the history sheets and accompanying card indices be kept in the waiting room by a clerk appointed for that purpose—each patient to be handed his history card by her on entering the Dispensary, and to take the same to the department to which he or she is assigned. The prescription ordered is to be written on the record, which is taken to the druggist by the patient, he returning the records to the history clerk at the close of the day for re-filing.

The report was adopted by the faculty and the chairman of this committee was instructed to request your Board to provide the necessary funds to employ a clerk of records. It is estimated that this will cost from $400.00 to $500.00 a year. Your Committee recommends that the Dispensary provide such a clerk.

Your Committee further recommends that in lieu of a more elaborate annual report, which has usually included a history of the Dispensary, its by-laws, etc., there be issued this year a small ten or twelve-page circular containing only the essential facts in reference to the work of the Dispensary for this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN M. DODSON,
JAMES H. HARPER,
EMMONS B. COBB,
Committee on Dispensary Work.

Report of the Treasurer

of the

Central Free Dispensary of Chicago

From January 1st to December 31st, 1907

RECEIPTS

Cash on hand January 1, 1907			$2387.41
Cash from Investments		$1387.79	
Cash from Dispensary Patients		2413.05	
DONATIONS			
Francis Beidler	$10.00		
Chicago Telephone Co.	45.83		
Fuller & Fuller Co.	25.00		
S. S. Greeley	5.00	85.83	3886.67
			$6274.08

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries—			
Distributor	$720.00		
Druggist	720.00		
Janitress	451.20		
Visiting Physicians	80.00		
Nurses	199.93		
Electrical Treatments	60.00	$2231.13	
Supervision		200.00	
Allowance to Ex-Superintendant		225.00	
Drugs		1051.08	
Supplies and Expense		696.40	
B. W. Ripley, Cash advanced Dec. 13, 1906		100.00	
Printing and Mailing Annual Report		151.55	$4655.16
Cash on hand Dec. 31, 1906			1618.92
			$6274.08

Assets in hands of B. W. Ripley, Treasurer:	
Mortgage on Rush Medical College; 6 per cent.	$11000.00
Five bonds West Chicago Street Railway, Nos. 1823, 811, 813, 814, 845; 6 per cent.	5000.00
One bond West Chicago Street Railway, No. 1950; 5 per cent.	1000.00
Four bonds Chicago Auditorium, Nos. 749, 750, 990, 993; 5 per cent.	2000.00
Two bonds North Chicago Street Railway, Nos. 89, 90; 4½ per cent.	2000.00
Cash on hand	1618.92
	$22618.92

Assets in hands of Trustees of Rush Medical College, Account John Phillips Fund, from which the Central Free Dispensary receives the income:	
Three bonds Chicago Auditorium, Nos. 185, 126, 134; 5 per cent.	$3000.00
Nine bonds Chicago Auditorium, Nos. 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 942, 943, 944,; 5 per cent.	4500.00
One Chicago Board of Trade bond; 4 per cent.	100.00
	$7600.00

BRADFORD W. RIPLEY, Treasurer.

Chicago, December 31st, 1907.

REPORT OF PATIENTS AT THE CENTRAL FREE DISPENSARY, JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st, 1907

MONTH	Medicine		Nervous		Children		Surgery		Genito-Urinary		Gynæ-cology		Chest Throat Nose		Eye and Ear		Skin and Venereal		New	Old	Total	5 Cents	10 Cents	20 Cents	25 Cents	50 Cents	Special	Ticket Receipts	Druggist Receipts	Total Receipts	Free	Prescriptions Filled	Refused Treatment
	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old									Dr. Ormsby	$	$	$			
Jan.	209	217	55	151	96	147	208	213	72	142	43	85	212	180	154	105	151	162	1200	1402	2602	212	1613	2	0	4	$ 5.00	174.30	15.35	194.65	771	2259	39
Feb.	219	225	38	162	118	183	206	227	59	142	52	80	238	150	150	88	138	134	1218	1394	2612	276	1649	2	0	6		182.10	15.20	197.30	698	2298	54
Mar.	237	124	64	155	179	198	211	261	113	169	44	112	148	198	197	148	181	194	1374	1559	2933	273	1959	3	0	3		211.65	16.70	228.35	695	2433	62
April	227	210	71	139	153	171	217	253	53	152	54	89	214	175	111	125	134	169	1314	1480	2794	260	1792	0	2	8		196.70	16.55	213.25	732	2076	64
May	224	199	65	141	140	190	213	237	70	146	73	85	131	172	143	140	113	171	1172	1481	2653	246	1777	0	0	3		191.50	13.65	205.15	627	2363	48
June	196	182	56	90	146	131	217	174	61	112	56	57	219	150	146	122	119	131	1216	1149	2365	397	1326	0	1	4		154.70	13.25	167.95	637	2010	41
July	279	231	58	172	120	188	273	251	69	163	84	110	200	194	198	165	144	205	1425	1679	3104	481	1714	1	0	0		195.65	12.60	208.25	899	2562	71
Aug.	290	272	72	183	148	247	241	309	77	230	85	139	208	225	162	142	123	224	1406	1971	3377	615	1855	0	0	2		217.25	15.90	233.15	905	2594	88
Sept.	159	144	87	85	133	145	233	176	153	101	97	60	204	110	161	91	173	100	1400	1012	2412	331	1370	0	0	3	Dr. Hyde	155.05	14.80	169.85	708	2031	47
Oct.	199	197	96	138	161	166	252	238	132	151	87	95	217	191	149	141	176	179	1469	1496	2965	521	1560	0	0	1	10.00	182.55	12.60	205.15	883	1817	76
Nov.	177	251	48	151	101	177	197	273	64	184	53	117	231	243	167	187	111	200	1164	1781	2945	469	1746	1	2	3	2.00	202.25	15.90	218.15	724	2481	54
Dec.	175	162	39	79	101	108	156	174	102	131	42	49	201	175	137	75	146	106	1124	1065	2189	354	1407	1	1	1		159.35	12.50	171.85	425	1690	24
Total	2591	2414	749	1646	1596	2051	2624	2786	1025	1823	770	1078	2423	2163	1955	1529	1709	1975	15482	17469	32951	4435	19768	10	6	38	17.00	2223.05	175.00	2413.05	8694	26444	668

Mo.	Tuberculosis	
	New	Old
Nov.	13	
Dec.	25	6
Total	38	6